GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:457
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
Intellectual Property Rights in Agriculture
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Protection of Plants Varieties and Farmer"s Rights (PPV&FR) Authority has taken steps to implement intellectual property rights in agriculture sector in order to develop new varieties of plants and protect the rights of farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cases of intellectual property rights related to Indian crops have been filed;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with number of such crops during the last three years and the current year;

(e) the number of cases disposed of till date and the outcome thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken for the protection of farmer"s rights in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) has taken the following necessary steps to implement Intellectual Property Rights in agriculture to protect the rights of farmers, plant breeders and researchers:-

Contdâ€¦2/-

â€¢ Established Plant Variety Registry, National Gene Bank and Field Gene Banks.
â€¢ Developed network of Distinctiveness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) testing centres at the institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/ Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs).
â€¢ Developed database software relating to Indian Information System as per DUS guidelines (IINDUS) and Notified & Released Varieties of India (NORV).
â€¢ 107 crops / species have been notified for registration of plant varieties including new, extant, variety of common knowledge and farmers' varieties.
â€¢ 2068 certificates of registration have been issued.
â€¢ Authority confers Plant Genome Saviour Community Awards, rewards and recognition to the farmer /farming/tribal and rural communities for their commendable role in the conservation of Plant Genetic Resources in areas identified as agro-biodiversity hotspots.

(c) & (d): The details of the Cases filed during the last three years and the current years are at Annexure-I.

(e): The details of cases disposed of till date and outcome thereof is at Annexure-II.

(f) The PPV&FR Authority is taking the following steps to protect the rights of farmers:-

â€¢ Application form for registration of farmers' varieties has been simplified.
â€¢ Annual fee in respect of farmers' varieties for retaining the registration under PPV&FR Act, 2001 has been reduced to Rs.10/- per year.
â€¢ Farmers are exempted from payment of any fee in any proceeding under the PPV&FR Act, 2001.
â€¢ Extensive awareness programmes are being conducted by PPV&FR Authority in co-ordination with SAUs /KVKs to enhance awareness about the provisions of the PPV&FR Act, 2001 including the Farmers' Rights.
â€¢ Out of 11262 applications received for registration, 6492 applications belong to farmers' varieties.
â€¢ Field Gene Banks are being established at Dapoli, Ranchi, Mashobra and Jodhpur for utilizing them as reference collection for registration of varieties.
â€¢ The Authority has so far conferred 10 Plant Genome Saviour Community Awards, 10 Plant Genome Saviour Farmers Rewards

and 15 Plant Genome Saviour Farmers Recognition to the farmers and farming communities.